



emerson theatre company

Emerson Theatre Company
130 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02116

William L. Sharp, Department Chairman

A. D. Sensenbach, Director of Graduate Studies

ACTING:

Sheldon Feldner
Dorothy J. Gordon
Larry Loonin
Fran McArthur
James Spruill

PLAYWRITING:

Robert Murray

MIME:

Steven Weinstein

TECHNICAL:

William Fregosi, Design
Herman George, Design
Betsy Leichliter, Design
Susan Paigen, Associate Designer
Gary Casarella, Technical Director

Publicity: Fran Charnas, James Sullivan

Box Office Manager: Anne Bassage

Secretary to the Department: Ellen Donkin

Emerson Theatre Company

presents

BLITHE SPIRIT

BY Noel Coward

Directed by

Dr A. D. Sensenbach

Set Designer

Susan Paigen

Lighting Designer

James L. Paulson

Costume Designer

Betsy Leichliter

Acting Coach

Fran McArthur

CAST

Charles Condomine

Lyle Shaw

Ruth Condomine

Charlene Greenhalgh

Elvira Condomine

Kate Schlesinger

Dr. Bradman

James Farkas

Mrs. Bradman

Alanna Fearing

Edith

Carolyn Mall

Madame Arcati

Janet Cartier

Sir Noel Coward (1899-1973)

Throughout the English-speaking world, and for a time-span of half a century, the title "First Gentleman of the theatre" indisputably belonged to only one personage, the fabulous Noel Coward. It was a title both well-earned and clearly appropriate. Throughout a professional career which encompassed five decades of memorable theatre, the name Noel Coward was universally a synonym for theatrical brilliance, dazzling wit, impeccable style, glamorous sophistication, devastating social satire, legendary artifice, and incredibly polished form. The sheer genius of the man had repeatedly been demonstrated in so many different capacities within the theatre that he was literally without peer. He was respected as being in such company as that of Shakespeare, Congreve, Wilde and Shaw, but none of those luminaries had ever matched Coward's brilliance of achievement, not to mention popularity, in so wide a range of creativity. He left his distinctive mark equally upon the pursuits of being a playwright, director, actor, night-club and review entertainer, songwriter, lyricist, film-maker and raconteur. Official recognition of his achievements and his contributions came in 1970 in his being knighted by Queen Elizabeth II, but decades before that he had already become popularly idolized by generations of theatre-goers throughout the world.

Born in a suburb of London, he appeared on the stage at the age of six, and subsequently he had years of experience as a child actor. Following service in the First World War, he launched his playwrighting career, and

and on his twenty fifth birthday broke theatrical records by having five of his plays running simultaneously in London. In the following year, 1926, he equally dazzled America by having three productions on Broadway concurrently. From then on, his productivity was staggering and his success incredible. The roster of English and American performers whose careers were closely associated with plays and reviews written by Coward is literally a "Who's Who" of the theatre's most distinguished super-stars for half a century on both sides of the Atlantic. The list includes the Lunts, Sir Lawrence Olivier, Gertrude Lawrence, and Tallulah Bankhead, to cite only a few.

His most popular works here in America were The Vortex, Hay Fever, On With the Dance, the operetta Bitter-Sweet, Private Lives, Design for Living, Blithe Spirit(1941) Cavalcade, the series of plays collectively titled Tonight at 8:30, Present Laughter, and the now classic war time film, In Which We Serve.

Only time's test will determine which creations were his finest, but at present, it would appear that Private Lives and Blithe Spirit are the foremost contenders. Coward's death in Jamaica in April of 1973 prompted world wide revivals of his plays, and it is probable that consequent evaluation of his less well known plays will soon reveal others to be equally universal and timeless joys. It is also probable that Charles Castle's recent biography, Noel, will significantly enhance our further appreciation of what Coward modestly called his "talent to amuse".

Production Staff

Stage Manager	Spencer Klein
Assistant Stage Managers	Peter Muste Jody Price Susan Lewis
Technical Director	Gary Casarella
Assistant Technical Director	Mike Levitt
Master Electrician	Joel Seidman
Property Masters	George Anderson Elina Filander
Soft Properties	Herman George
Special Effects	Spiro Veloudos
Master Carpenter	Mike Levitt
Assistant Set Designer	Robin White
Shop Carpenter	Bud Santos
Sound	James L. Paulson

Shop Crew:

Abby Altshuler, Pat Berg, George Camarada,
Susan Cambell, John Clancy, Marc Courchesne,
Pat Dignan, Paul Fadoul, Peter Kalven, Lee
Ellen Marvin, Bud Santos, Liz Stancioff.

Lighting Crew:

Abby Altshuler, Spenser Klein, Eric Pfeiffer,
Thad Reycraft, Joe Vayda, Joanna Ward.

Prop Crew:

Bonnie Berman, Paul Fadoul, Joshua Katz, Judy
Larrabee, Sabina Meritz.

Costume Crew:

Lisa Bannick, Bonnie Berman, PatCouich, Robin
Douglas, Michelle Maracz, Joan Krevsky, Ralph
Parks, Nancy Petruzzello, Donna Rubenstein,
Mary White.

The Back Bay Musicale: G. Zeller, regisseur;
Peter A. Klein, arranger and conductor; Dr.
William Sharp, first violin; Lyle Shaw, second
violin; Cathy Wallace, cello; Stephen B. Wilson,
piano

We wish to extend our special thanks to :
WERS T.V., Mrs. Robert W. Schantz, Ms. Lauren
Schebaum, Mr. George Quenzel. Dr. Bradman's
formal wear by Read and White, Boston. Men's
hairstyles by Daniel of Continental Coiffeures
of Newbury Street.

The action of the play takes place in the living-room of Charles Condomine's house in Kent. There will be two ten-minute intermissions between acts.

ACT I	Scene 1.	Before dinner on a summer evening
	Scene 2.	After dinner
ACT II	Scene 1:	The next morning
	Scene 2:	Late the following afternoon
	Scene 3:	Early evening a few days later
ACT III	Scene 1:	After dinner a few days later
	Scene 2:	Several hours later

Additional acknowledgement: Mr. Robert Galt

Posters by SIBLING RIVALRY: Greg and Jude Symanski

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